

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 16 are amended; claims 9-15 are canceled; and claims 1-8 and 16-38 are pending in the application.

Claims 1 and 16 stand rejected under §112. Claims 1-8 and 16-26 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Murooka. Claims 1-8 and 16-38 stand rejected for obviousness-double patenting relative to claims of U.S. Patent Number 6, 670,109.

A telephone interview was conducted between the undersigned and the Examiner on August 29, 2006. During such interview, the undersigned agreed to submit a Terminal Disclaimer to overcome the obviousness-type double patenting rejection. Such Terminal Disclaimer accompanies this response.

The §112 rejections were discussed during the telephone interview. The Examiner explained that claim 27 is properly written to avoid the §112 rejections. The Examiner further explained her reasons for rejecting claims 1 and 16 under §112. Although agreement was not reached as to whether claims 1 and 16 could be placed in condition for allowance by adding a limitation similar to that found in the last two lines of claim 27, the Examiner indicated that such would seem like a reasonable step to take in attempting to obtain allowance of claims 1 and 16. Thus, applicant has made such amendment to claims 1 and 16.

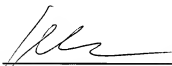
The rejections based on Murooka were also discussed during the interview. Although agreement was not reached as to whether claims 1 and 16 could be placed in condition for allowance over Murooka by adding a limitation similar to that found in the last

two lines of claim 27, the Examiner indicated willingness to consider such amendment if applicant submitted the amendment in replying to the June 1, 2006 Final Office Action. Accordingly, applicant has amended claims 1 and 16 to incorporate limitations analogous to that present in the last two lines of claim 27.

Applicant believes claims 1-8 and 16-38 to be in condition for allowance, and accordingly respectfully requests the Examiner's next Action be a Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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